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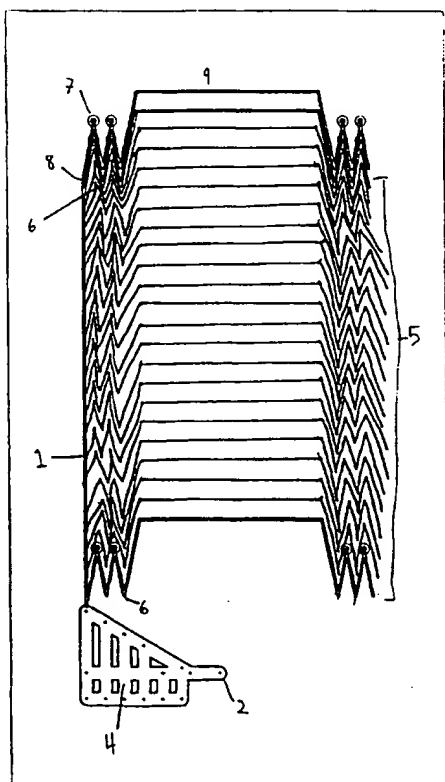
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PREPARING A SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides apparatus and methods for dividing a sample, into a plurality of subsamples without the need for pipetting or for other manual operations. Sample is placed, via inlet (2) into sample reservoir (4) in fluid communication with a main charging channel (1) which, in turn, is in fluid communication with a plurality of fractionation channels (5), with valves and vents and terminal purge channel (9). Prior to its use, the plate described above is mated with a receptacle plate, for receiving subsample via fractionation channel valves (6), and to a lid which seals the channels against leakage. The sealed device is subjected to centrifugation in order to distribute sample.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PC1/US 01/06118

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C1201/68 B01J19/00 B01L3/00 B01L3/02

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01L C12Q B01J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X	US 5 798 215 A (RIBI HANS O ET AL) 25 August 1998 (1998-08-25) column 6, line 37 -column 6, line 54 column 8, line 18 -column 9, line 58 column 10, line 24 -column 10, line 57 column 16, line 53 -column 17, line 6 column 17, line 28 -column 17, line 48 figures 1-8 ---	1-3,7,8, 10,12
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PC1/US 97/06118

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	WO 99 60397 A (UNIV WASHINGTON) 25 November 1999 (1999-11-25) page 3, line 7 -page 4, line 5 page 16, line 20 -page 17, line 6 figure 12 -----	16

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Information on patent family members

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